11. Steel Galvanised Pipes	0.41
12. Printed/Dyed Sheeting	0.04
13. Mango Kernel Oil	1.12
14. Tea	0.27
15. Coffee	2.79
16. Polypropylene Woven Bangs	0.45
17. Rice	0.02
18. Pressure Stove	0.01
19. Sewing Thread	0.03
20. Psyllium Husk	0.29
21. Medicines	0.11
22. Bicycle Parts	0.02
23. Finished Leather	0.13
24. Soyabean Meal	0.12
25. Computer Components	1.73
TOTAL:	66.15

Setting up of a sericulture project

2410. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a sericulture in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) In collaboration with State Governments, the Central Silk Board has formulated a National Sericulture Project for increasing production of mulberry raw silk in the country. The project has been posed for World Bank Assistance. A World Bank Mission visited India during Oct.—Nov., 1988 to appraise the project. Final negotiations with the World Bank to finalise details of the Project and the cost, are scheduled to be held in April, 1989.

Electoral reforms to do away with malpractices resorted to during elections

2411. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI L. K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether elections are polluted due to (i) money power, (ii) misuse of power by State Governments/Central Government (iii) misuse of official media, (iv) casteist, re igious and regional considerations, and (v) frivolous candidates; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative whether any electoral reforms relating to any of the above malady are under Government's consideration, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) while such allegations are heard from time to time, it is not correct to suggest that the elections held in the country are vitiated or polluted and are not free and fair. Time and again, the Indian voter has exercised his franchise fearlessly and on the basis of his honest judgment. Our resilient electoral system has also made this possible. No institutional system can be worked successfully and blemishlessly unless all those concerned act conscientiously without any ulterior motive and without attempting to protect vested interests.

In fact, the guidelines which already exist like the Model Code of Conduct, for the guidance of political parties and candidates, the approved scheme of election broadcasts and telecasts by recognised political parties during elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies which has been in force for over a decade now; and the enactments already made like the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1985,

existing Election Laws and the improvements made thereto by the recently enacted Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1988, the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988 etc. contain adequate provisions.

Appeal by Christian churches during recent Mizoram elections

2412. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindi Daily Janasatta of January 15, 1989 to the effect that during the recent election campaign in Mizoram a joint appeal was issued by ten churches which in effect favoured a particular party;

(b) if so, what was the text of the appeal; and

(c) whether such appeals attract any provisions of the law barring use of religious places for political purposes, if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Government's attention has been drawn to the news item referred to. It may be clarified, however, that the joint appeal does not seem to contain anything favouring any particular political party. The appeal made is a general one to the people of Mizoram asking them mainly to conduct the election campaign in a fair manner, vote freely and extend support to candidates who are free from social evils.

(c) The Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988 has provisions prohibiting a religious institution or manager thereof from using or allowing the use of any premises belonging to or under the control of the institution, *inter alia*, for the promotion or propagation of any political activity. Whether the provisions of the Act have been infringed or not is a matter to be determined by the authorities concerned under a judicial process in accordance with the due process of law.

Non-Plan expenditure of Central Government

2413. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Non-Plan expenditure of the Central Government upto the end of December, 1988 during the current financial year;

(b) how does it compare with the corresponding period during each of the last two financial years; and

(c) what specific steps have been taken during the current year to effectively curb Non-Plan expenditure of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K GADHVI): (a) to (c) The amounts booked in the accounts of a month do not fully reflect the transactions that have taken place in that month and there is a varying time lag before the entire expenditure is adjusted under appropriate heads. Further the pace of expenditure in a month will depend on the time schedule of contractual payments commitments etc. which may vary from year to year. Hence month-wise figures of expenditure will not provide a basis for fair comparison. The expenditure figure booked in a year as a whole would be more representative of the actual expenditure incurred in that year. The figures of Non-Plan expenditure over the previous years and the estimated expenditure of current year and their broad break up are given in the Budget document—Expenditure Budget